

**As Amended by House Committee**

*Session of 2026*

**HOUSE BILL No. 2605**

By Committee on Transportation

Requested by Representative Rahjes

1-30

1 AN ACT concerning roads and highways; designating a portion of U.S.  
2 highway 36 as the ~~deputy sheriff~~ **undersheriff** Brandon Gaede  
3 memorial highway.  
4

5  
6 WHEREAS, Brandon Pierce Gaede was born on April 28, 1995, in  
7 Colby, Kansas; and

8 WHEREAS, Brandon was raised in Colby, Kansas, and graduated in  
9 2013 from Colby high school, where he participated in football, wrestling  
10 and track; and

11 WHEREAS, Immediately following graduation, Brandon began his  
12 career in law enforcement, working for the Thomas county sheriff's office;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Brandon also attended Colby community college where  
15 he studied criminal justice and graduated with an associate of science  
16 degree in 2015; and

17 WHEREAS, Brandon began working as a sheriff's deputy in Phillips  
18 County in 2017 and attended the Kansas law enforcement training center  
19 (KLETC), where he was the president of the 247th basic training class;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Brandon was a field training officer (FTO) and a drone  
22 operator for the Phillips county sheriff's office. He was promoted to  
23 sergeant in 2023 and to undersheriff in 2024; and

24 WHEREAS, Brandon met the love of his life, Karlye Stephen, while  
25 working at Phillips county. Brandon and Karlye were married on October  
26 20, 2020, and welcomed three children: Axel, Otto and Emilie; and

27 WHEREAS, Brandon was called and responded to a report concerning  
28 use of illegal explosives on June 27, 2025; and

29 WHEREAS, While attempting to arrest the suspect, the suspect drew a  
30 concealed revolver and fired the weapon, critically wounding Brandon;  
31 and

32 WHEREAS, Despite his injuries, Brandon returned fire, thus subduing  
33 the suspect; and

34 WHEREAS, Brandon passed away later that same day as a result of the  
35 injuries that he sustained in the arrest; and

1 WHEREAS, Brandon was honored as the 2025 sheriff's deputy of the  
2 year by the Kansas sheriff's association; and

3 WHEREAS, Brandon will always be remembered for being a genuine,  
4 one-of-a-kind person. He is a true hero, and his legacy will live on in his  
5 family and community.

6 Now, therefore:

7 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

8 Section 1. The portion of U.S. highway 36 from the eastern city limits  
9 of Phillipsburg, then west on U.S. highway 36 to the western city limits of  
10 Phillipsburg in Phillips county, is hereby designated as the ~~deputy sheriff~~  
11 **undersheriff** Brandon Gaede memorial highway. Upon compliance with  
12 K.S.A. 68-10,114, and amendments thereto, the secretary of transportation  
13 shall place suitable signs along the highway right-of-way at proper  
14 intervals to indicate that the highway is the ~~deputy sheriff~~ **undersheriff**  
15 Brandon Gaede memorial highway.

16 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
17 publication in the statute book.